

ATTORNEY DCKET NO. RO4366US (NORT10-00063)
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/220,955
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 8, 11, 12 and 21-29 are pending in the application.

Claims 21 and 25-29 have been allowed.

Claims 22-24 have been rejected.

Claims 8, 11, and 12 have been objected to.

Claims 8, 11, 12 and 22-24 have been canceled, without prejudice.

New Claims 30-32 have been added.

I. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 8, 11 and 12

Claims 8, 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claims 8, 11 and 12 as new independent Claims 30-32, and has canceled pending Claims 8, 11 and 12.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kelly, et al. (US 4,862,496). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to further prosecution of the instant application, Applicant has canceled Claims 22-24, without prejudice.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the § 102(b) rejection of Claims 22-24.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. R04366US (NORT10-00063)

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III. CONCLUSION

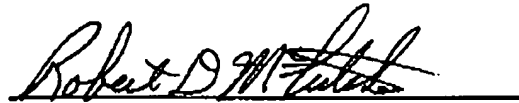
As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at rmccutcheon@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: 4/12/2004

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